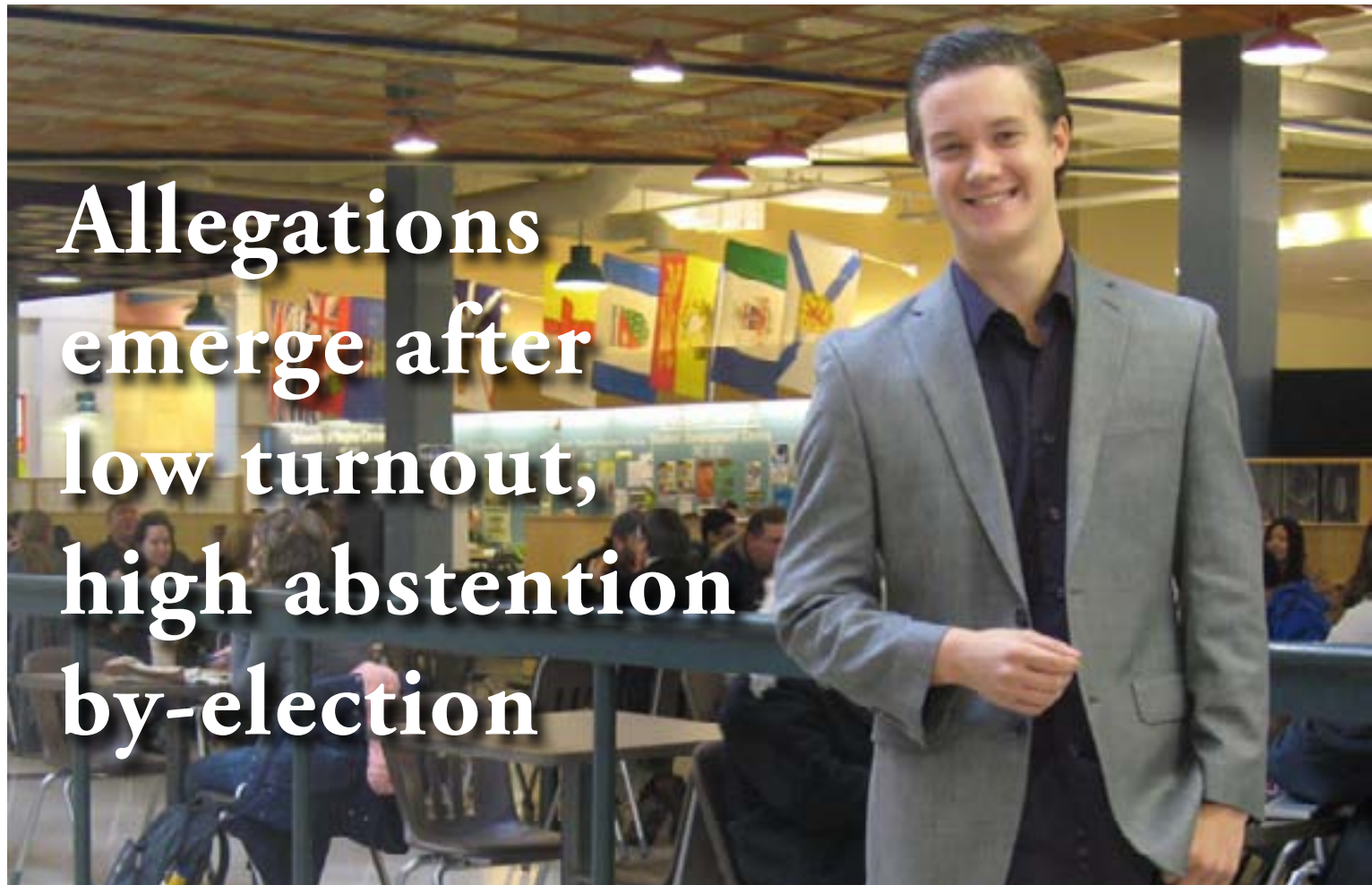




INK NEWS

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New URSU president Nathan Sgrazzutti, above, beat Tyler Gray by seven votes in the Sept. 26 by-election. Photo by Derek Cornet

BY DEREK CORNET
@Canadianmeat1

A low turnout and high abstention plagued the University of Regina Students' Union (URSU) by-election on Sept. 25 and 26, but a president has been elected.

It was a tight race between URSU presidential hopefuls Tyler Gray and Nathan Sgrazzutti. Sgrazzutti pulled ahead and declared victory by a margin of only seven votes. The tight race has been overshadowed, however, by the by-election turnout and the number of people who abstained.

In the 2012 by-election, 835 people voted compared to the 2,121 people who cast a vote in the 2011 general election. Among those voters, 15 per cent abstained from voting in 2012, while in 2011, four per cent abstained. Both Gray and Sgrazzutti believe an orchestrated campaign to discourage

voting contributed to the high abstention rate.

According to both men, rumours began circulating after the election that a past member had allegedly ran an abstention campaign against them.

"I don't know why. I guess he decided it was in his best interests to run an abstention campaign against both of us," said Sgrazzutti.

The past member in question is former president Kent Peterson.

"I guess (Kent Peterson) decided it was in his best interests to run an abstention campaign against both of us."

– Nathan Sgrazzutti

Peterson, whom Sgrazzutti believes targeted Tyler Gray and himself during the by-election. Sgrazzutti said he may have been targeted because he didn't agree with the "aggressive"

stance taken by last year's URSU.

Gray, the other candidate for URSU president, said that while he had no proof an abstention campaign occurred, he heard students had been encouraged not to vote for an URSU president.

"I was a bit disappointed. More so around that perhaps I didn't do the best job at communicating to Kent that I wasn't trying to attack Kent as a person, but that I just disagreed with the methods on how he went about representing students," said Gray.

When Peterson was told about the accusations, he denied his involvement in the high abstention rate and said he did not lead an abstention campaign.

"Given that many people, as you said, did indeed abstain, it's quite a compliment that multiple individuals think I ran such a successful campaign. If I could lay claim to being

such an effective organizer - I would," Peterson replied in an email.

While this issue may not be resolved, the URSU has a new president regardless, and Sgrazzutti, 19, said his youth and passion will lead the students' union in a new direction.

"Given that many people ... did indeed abstain, it's quite a compliment that multiple individuals think I ran such a successful campaign. If I could lay claim to being such an effective organizer - I would."

– Kent Peterson



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Oktoberfest losing its tradition

By JAZMINN HINTZ
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Oktoberfest is a festival known for drinking beer and having a good time, but some say the German festival has strayed from its traditional roots as a harvest celebration.

Oktoberfest is traditionally celebrated in September in Munich, Germany, but in North America and Regina the festival is typically held in October and doesn't necessarily follow the German tradition.

Oktoberfest was originally the "time of the year when most of the time on the field was done and people had some time to celebrate," said Sabine Doebel-Atchison, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan German Council.

Doebel-Atchison pointed out that most of the people who organize Oktoberfest here in Saskatchewan are of German background and try to keep the celebration traditional but, because it's called Oktoberfest, North Americans naturally hold it in October.

"They have the Oktoberfest

here more for the food and the party and the band playing and that's it, and it's not really at the time it's supposed to be at either," said Friederike Given, who immigrated to Canada from southern Germany in 1984.

"For some, it's just a party. It's nothing else," Given said. The celebrations have become more multicultural and are getting farther away from traditional German food, music and drink, she added.

Now, the German Canadian Society Harmonie in Regina is trying to bring the tradition back to Oktoberfest for those who might not know German tradition.

"The German community

"For some it's just a party. It's nothing else."
- Friederike Given

here in Regina is really big, but the young German people who were born here they don't know that much about Germany or German traditions. I think it's really nice for people to come here to see how it will go and



The promotional poster for the Oktoberfest at the Regina German Club. Photo by Jazminn Hintz

what we're doing," said Swelana Voromin, manager of the German Society.

"I think it's really important to work all together. It's first cultural, second it's to bring people together, third I think it's really nice for the people from outside of the German club or from other cultures to learn something new about German people, about the German culture," said Voromin.

Voromin said they have

made modern changes to Oktoberfest by hosting it on Oct. 20 to coincide with the completion of the Saskatchewan harvest.

Hosting nationals was a home run for Cougars



Right fielder Chenelle Mitchell and head coach Mike Smith of the U of R women's softball team pose with the banner from the national championship the team hosted from Oct. 5 to 8. The Cougars placed sixth. Photo by Jonathan Hamelin

BY JON HAMELIN
@JonathanH1991

A sixth-place finish at nationals may not have given fans reason to root, root, root for the home team, but the University of Regina women's softball team is looking beyond the result.

From Oct. 5 to 8, the Cougars played host to the Canadian Collegiate Softball Association national championships at Kaplan Field and

Rambler Park. It was the first time they've ever hosted the event.

"It's a big step forward for our program," said Chenelle Mitchell, a right fielder for the Cougars.

Though the U of R lost 8-1 to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Trojans in the fifth-place game, the Cougars feel that having nationals in their own backyard is reason to celebrate.

"U of R softball isn't really

well known, so I think that hosting nationals was a pretty big deal, just to get the word out there that our team does exist," said Mitchell, who was named a tournament all-star.

"It was really exciting to be hosting and everyone was really excited to be there.

The nationals included teams from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Ontario. While the weather wasn't ideal for playing softball, event liaison John Papandreas noted that this didn't

dampen the spirits of those who attended. Papandreas said feedback for the event was universally positive.

"Everybody that I spoke to said it was an excellent, successful event," said Papandreas, U of R co-ordinator of recreation services. He added that the Cougars took in "significantly more money than was expected" at the gate.

"We were complimented by so many of the teams on how hospitable we were and how

wonderful our volunteer base was," Papandreas said. "There was no way we could have operated an event such as this without the use of a significant number of volunteers. The majority of them were parents: working the gate, running concessions, announcing, scorekeeping."

Cougars head coach Mike Smith said hosting nationals shows how far the softball program has come since it started in 2004.

Since softball is not a classified Canadian Interuniversity Sport, the Cougars are never guaranteed any financial support. The team had struggles filling its roster in the early days and, due to a previous U of R sports policy, couldn't use the "Cougars" alias until 2007.

But the team has shown success on the field, being named the Alberta Intercollegiate Women's Fastball Association champion in 2009 after posting a 16-1-0 record.

"It's been eight years of work – a lot of hard work," Smith said. "It seems like the struggles are behind us.

"Everybody that has anything to do with the team should be proud."

CIVIC ELECTION 2012



There are no self-declared aboriginal candidates running for mayor in this election. Photo by Roxanna Woloshyn

BY ROXANNA WOLOSHYN
@mynameisroxanna

Popular issues in the current civic election have been the stadium, housing crisis, and lack of women candidates but there is another big issue that's getting a lot less attention.

There is only one self-declared aboriginal candidate running in this election. April Bourgeois is running for public school board and she has self-declared as Metis.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2006 Regina had a population of 194,971 people and 17,100 were aboriginal.

If there is just one declared aboriginal person running for election in Regina, then about

9 percent of the population is not being represented. This is based on the 2006 census because the report on aboriginal populations from the 2011 census has not been released yet.

tions or Métis background is if they self-proclaim," said returning officer, Joni Swidnicki.

One way to determine if someone is aboriginal is if the candidate declared it in his or her biography which is posted

drawn to my attention," said Swidnicki.

University of Regina students at the Aboriginal Students Centre say they are not surprised at the lack of candidates in the city because there

ready yet for an aboriginal mayor."

Gilles Dorval, aboriginal relations advisor with the City of Saskatoon works to support First Nations and Métis people who are interested in running for public office. But he said it often comes down to the fact that there are more pressing issues on the minds of aboriginal people than civic politics.

"A lot of aboriginal people are in survival mode... shelter, food safety. So they're dealing with other issues." -Gilles Dorval

It's difficult to determine whether a candidate is First Nations or Métis because the city does not record that information.

"We don't have anything on our nomination forms that ask anybody to declare their ethnicity. So the only way we know a candidate has First Na-

to the city's website. But so far, no candidate running for mayor or councilor has identified him or herself as aboriginal in their online biographies.

"I have to admit I am not aware of (any aboriginal candidates) in this election, but that doesn't mean that there is not anybody. It just hasn't been

are still issues that need to be addressed on the reserves.

"I think we already have enough problems running our own reservations. I think we need to resolve our own problems first before we try (in civic politics)," said Candace Pelletier, an international studies student. "I don't think we're

Creating a connection: City approves CP land sales agreement



This land will be stripped down to bridge downtown with the Warehouse District. Photo by Aaron Stuckel

BY AARON STUCKEL
@aaronstuckel04

The City of Regina has moved toward finalizing a deal with Canadian Pacific Railway to purchase 17.39 acres of land along Dewdney Avenue.

On Oct. 9, city council approved a land sales agreement that would see CP moving its container yard by July 2014.

The City expects to begin neighbourhood planning before Jan. 31 when the deal is hoped to be finalized.

"That planning work will start before CP has vacated the land," said deputy city manager Brent Sjoberg.

That process could include one of two things, he said. The first would include the "traditional process" of hir-

ing a firm to table plans. The second would have developers submit plans which council would then vote on. Either option would include input from neighbourhood stakeholders.

This has members of the Warehouse Business Improvement District excited.

"They've already indicated to us that they will be engaging us in additional conversation and requesting input," said WBID executive director Audrey Price.

"It never hurts to have other people's ideas included and we'll be able to share those."

Green space and a place where people can congregate are top priorities for Price, who added that she hopes to see a mix of businesses enter the area. She also said having added housing in the area would help to increase business.

"It's exciting to think about what the potential is now on Dewdney Avenue and what could happen there," she said.

The sale is also important to the \$1 billion Regina Revitalization Initiative, said Sjoberg.

"The key focus here is connecting the Warehouse District with the downtown. The rail yard has been a natural barrier for those to areas for 100 years," said Sjoberg. He added he can see a vibrant nightlife

"It's exciting to think about what the potential is now on Dewdney Avenue and what could happen there."
-Audrey Price

developing along Dewdney Avenue.

A main rail line will still run along the southern boundary of the property. But, according to Sjoberg, a plan for a pedestrian bridge will aid in connecting the two districts.

The purchase of the land will cost the city \$7.5 million, while \$1 million will be spent on site clean up. The removal of two train bridges will cost roughly \$600,000 with environmental remediation adding another \$500,000.

After about a year of negotiations, Sjoberg said both sides are happy with the arrangements, and the city is excited to enhance its appeal.

"We can... concentrate some of the development in the heart of the city as opposed to spreading out, and that's really critical to creating that dynamic-type downtown," he said. "That's what we're really looking forward to."

Though the land will be ready for sale by 2015, Sjoberg said completion of the entire area will take until roughly 2025.

THE RACE FOR REGINA



Photo by Aaron Stuckel

Housing crisis will force new mayor to act fast



Regina's vacancy rate is at 0.6 per cent. Photo by Vanda Schmockel

BY VANDA SCHMOCKEL
@vschmo

At a glance, Regina's housing boom gives the impression that things are looking up for anyone in the market for a new home. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reported that housing starts were up in Saskatchewan in September, with 1,187

multi-family units started last month compared to 450 in 2011.

Those numbers are higher than much of the rest of the country. But an increase in housing starts does not necessarily translate to more affordable housing. According to the CMHC, construction of social housing in Regina is actually down from last year.

"Nine units of social

housing were built in Regina in 2011," said Lai Sing Louie, CMHC regional economist. "So far, in 2012, there have been five."

"It's a crisis. My first order of business will be to call for a summit." - Michael Fougere

With Regina's vacancy rate hovering at 0.6 per cent, the need for affordable housing in the city is great, and with a municipal

election on the horizon, this is an issue Regina's new mayor will be forced to reckon with.

"It's a crisis," mayoral candidate Michael Fougere said. Fougere is president of the Saskatchewan Construction Association, and has been a city councillor for 15 years. He pointed out that while the city is growing fast, there isn't enough affordable housing to go around.

If elected mayor, Fougere said affordable housing would be his top priority. "My first order of business will be to call for a summit," he said, pointing to the need for a strategy to deal with the housing crisis. Fougere also indicated that the proceeds from the sale

Mayoral candidate Marian Donnelly said that, after years of consultations on the issue, the city already has enough information to start working on developing affordable housing. She said, if elected, she would start working immediately with local affordable housing advocates towards implementing a plan. "I don't want a summit," she said. "It's time to get to work and get those plans going."

In the short term, Donnelly said that the city could free up developers to build more affordable housing by doing away with city parking restrictions which dictate one parking space per one-bedroom apartment on new builds. "They did that in Portland, Oregon, and it's worked for them," she said.

of city-owned land to developers in the east end of the city could be funneled towards more affordable housing.



"I would say that the stadium, while it is decisive, has also probably made people pay attention for the first time in a long time."
- Thomas Love



Chad Novak's publicity pains



Chad Novak has kept all of the media's coverage of his mayoral candidacy. Photo by Austin M. Davis

BY AUSTIN M. DAVIS
@theAustinX

Chad Novak has accepted the scrutiny that comes with being one of Regina's nine mayoral candidates.

The intensity of being in the public eye is something he came to terms with after dropping out of the race in July, only to re-enter in September.

"I'm definitely a lot more cautious about what I say and how I say it because when I began, I was very naïve in a lot of things," Novak said.

The relaxing two months he spent as a non-candidate prepared him for an uphill race to Oct. 24, and plenty of media attention in the meantime.

Novak said he expects public scrutiny because he's a "legitimate contender" who is running on a "grass-roots campaign."

"At the beginning I paid attention to everything that was ever put out there because I wanted to make sure that my message was getting out there properly. I

had no idea how the media might portray what I'm putting out there," Novak said.

From first announcing his candidacy, Novak showed that his campaign would be different.

Leslie-Ann Kroeker was an intern at CBC Regina when Novak held his press conference at the downtown city square.

"He came out driving a very flashy red sports car, to music blaring on loud speakers and you just kind of initially thought that you were at a sporting event, not a campaign opening for a mayoral candidate," Kroeker said.

After that announcement, Novak confessed he had never done a scrum before.

By Novak's own admission, he's more adept at handling the attention now – the good and the bad.

On Oct. 4, Novak brought that bad publicity on himself.

As election "trivia" on Twitter, Novak falsely suggested that Mayor Pat Fiacco's father-in-law

was former mayor Larry Schneider.

On Twitter, Fiacco stated that his father-in-law, who is not Larry Schneider, passed away in 2005.

Just a couple hours after the exchange on Twitter, Novak held a platform announcement in front of City Hall and was unimpressed that gathered media mostly neglected to talk about his platform.

The incident resulted in an unflattering story by the CBC.

"Unfortunately it didn't get out to the people and some people who based their opinion just on that one story, well obviously I look like a lunatic," Novak said.

On Fiacco's side, there is still evidence of bad blood.

"I have no opinion of Chad Novak," Fiacco said, adding that Novak's platform is "irrelevant."

"He's a candidate and that's about it," Fiacco said. "The citizens of this city will determine whether he should be the mayor of this city or not."



"Probably cheaper apartments, because the new houses they're building is all those high expensive housing. Not everyone can afford that."
- Marijeh Hafizi



"Fixing the roads ... A lot of the side streets are in horrible condition they haven't been fixed since the 1960s - Whitmore Park is a good example."
- George Sharpe

"I think the biggest issue is housing. Having enough places for the people who want to come here because Regina is obviously a booming industry."
- Brianna Wark

YOUR OPINION

What is the most important issue in the municipal election?

Police in Saskatchewan embrace new technology

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER @lkroeker13

Using a cell phone while driving a vehicle in Saskatchewan is prohibited, but using a cell phone to track down stolen vehicles is perfectly acceptable, according to the Saskatoon Police Service.

Late in the morning on Oct. 8., the Saskatoon police used the newest cell phone technology to track down a stolen car and return it to its rightful owner.

“If the technology is there, we are certainly going to use any means we can to make sure property, or any case, is solved,” said Kelsey Fraser, social media and media relations specialist for the Saskatoon police.

A call came in to the station Monday night reporting a lost vehicle. Inside the stolen car was a new smart phone that was GPS-compatible. With permission from the cell phone’s owner, the first step was to locate the phones

whereabouts through its GPS.

The police then called the cell phone in the stolen car hoping the suspects would pick up, but the call went unanswered. However, when the

GPS locator lead the police downtown, they found two males who had in their possession a smart phone with a missing call from the Saskatoon police. The two males were taken into custody. They face charges of theft of a motor vehicle and theft under \$5000.

“Cell phones are coming out with numerous gadgets... If it works for us, this will be an asset for us if we’re able to use it,” said Fraser.

Both the Regina and Saskatoon police services have used

the OnStar vehicle tracking system to find missing vehicles in the past, but this is one of the first times a cell phone’s GPS has been used.

Cell phone apps like Find

Service spokesperson, who also noted GPS has been used in alleged abductions and missing person cases in Regina.

Both Popowich and Fraser say that using a cell phone to track people down is all based on the compliance of the owner. Depending on the situation, police usually need a warrant to check someone’s personal phone. The GPS apps are also password-protected.

“Your phone nowadays (is)

your life,” said David Gerhard, associate professor of computer science at the University of Regina. “You want to have control over the information on it.”

“I think it’s fantastic because it’s completely in the hands of the consumer. The police don’t

have access to (the information) unless you give it to them,” said Gerhard.

Although he doesn’t condone it, Gerhard says if a cell phone owner is paranoid about the GPS function, turning it off is an easy flip of the switch.

“The most important thing to do is learn your phone. Learn how it works and where all the little switches are. If you don’t want anything to do with location, you can turn all those services off and enable the GPS and never use it again,” said Gerhard.

Popowich and Fraser value the use of technology but say the main objective is to keep on top of it.

“I think one of the challenges for us as a police service is to continue to stay up-to-date and continue to find ways to use it to our advantage. Some people will use it to do something criminal and we need to stay on top of (new technology) or, if possible, stay ahead,” said Popowich.



U of R Computer Science professor David Gerhard plays with his iPhone’s GPS navigator app. Photo by Leslie-Ann Kroeker

Security concerns don’t scare SaskTel of Huawei



Chinese telecom company Huawei has come under fire recently for security concerns. SaskTel is still ready to work with them. Photo by Tonaya Marr

BY JORDAN HALKYARD @notjhalkyard

SaskTel is not afraid of Chinese tech giant Huawei. The crown corporation downplayed any security concerns about Huawei following a report from the United States House of Representatives Intelligence Committee which stated “risks associated with Hauawei’s... provision of equipment to major U.S. firms could undermine core U.S. national-security

“The deal with SaskTel is somewhere in between (a private or public deal).”- Yuchao Zhu

interests.”

This new report comes one month after SaskTel signed a deal to use Huawei’s equipment for a wireless trial in rural areas of the province.

“SaskTel takes network security very seriously. Huawei is one of several suppliers that SaskTel has for its wireless network and SaskTel manages security appropriately with all our network suppliers, which includes Huawei and other global suppliers such as Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco and Nokia Siemens,” SaskTel representative Michelle Englot said in an email.

The Intelligence Committee report recommended American

companies view the participation of Chinese telecommunications companies with suspicion, and that the U.S. government should not use Huawei equipment.

The Committee’s main concern is Huawei or other Chinese telecommunication companies could be used by the Chinese government to spy on the country.

Yuchao Zhu, a political science professor at the University of Regina who specializes in the relationship between China and Canada, does not believe the trial undertaken by Huawei

and SaskTel will be detrimental to national security.

“The deal SaskTel signed with Hauwei is somewhere in between (a private deal and a government contract). With the contracts SaskTel signed with Huawei being primarily for the rural areas to help build up a new generation of networks, I don’t know how bad that would be,” Zhu said.

However, Zhu does believe the Canadian government will be more hesitant to create a long-term relationship with Huawei. The political science professor said he thinks “the Canadian government will go the same way the Australian

government did.” In March, the Australian government banned Huawei from bidding on contracts in a \$38 billion broadband network.

“(The Canadian government may) ban those companies to tender those projects with the government. I don’t know whether they can ban those Huawei partnerships with Telus or Rogers or how they can regulate that. I think it is a mixed thing,” Zhu said.

According to Zhu, the deal from the China National Offshore Oil Corp. to purchase Calgary-based oil company Nexen, in addition to the continued work of Huawei, will have a great impact on the relationship between the Canadian government and China.

“(The Nexen and Huawei cases) will probably show how much Canada wants to balance trade and the political situation. I think the Canadian government will be cautious in both cases,” Zhu said.

Saskatchewan gets “F” for endangered species



Three species, the greater prairie chicken, the black footed ferret and the prairie grizzly bear have already disappeared from Saskatchewan. Other species including, the swift fox, the burrowing owl and the greater sage grouse are in danger of disappearing from the province. Infographic by Matt Duguid

BY MATT DUGUID @mattdogood

Saskatchewan receives a failing grade when it comes to the province’s ability to protect its endangered animals, according to a recent report released by Ecojustice, a charitable organization made up of environmental scientists and lawyers. The report gives the provincial government an F for its protection of species at risk. The current legislation, the Wildlife

Act, “was intended to manage hunting and was later amended to establish a vague, discretion-laden process for evaluating the status of species at risk,” its authors state. The failing grade is not one that Beatriz Prieto, a terrestrial ecologist with the ministry of environment, agrees with.

“We are making improvements; there is still more to do but I wouldn’t say an F is a fair grade for the ministry,” said Prieto.

“Species at risk are a growing concern now. Before they weren’t taken into account that much; now we are really trying to make people understand that they are important,” said Prieto.

Currently the province lists 15 species as “at risk” in three categories: extirpated- no longer existing in the wild in Saskatchewan but existing in the wild outside of Saskatchewan; endangered- being threatened with imminent extirpation or

extinction and; threatened- likely to become endangered if the factors leading to their endangerment are not reversed.

Under the federal Species at Risk Act, 63 different species in Saskatchewan are listed as “at risk.” Prieto said the gap in numbers 15 species considered at risk by the provincial government versus 63 by the federal government stems from the timing of legislation. The provincial Wildlife Act was enacted in 1998 while the federal

The presidential election: A spectator sport for Canadians (and more?)

BY CHRISTOPHER YIP @christopheryip

American citizen Stephanie Beauchesne moved from Washington to Regina three years ago. Last Thursday night, the pro-Democrat watched the vice-presidential debate with a

critical eye.

“No, that’s not true,” she said with a laugh, picking apart the last statement from Republican candidate Paul Ryan.

Beauchesne has noticed more people engaging in discussion as the Nov. 6 election date approaches.

“If I wear an Obama shirt, people will comment, and I can start talking to my professors about it. I have a lot of friends that watch the debate as well.”

Beauchesne is excited to cast her absentee vote in the next couple of weeks. However, why might Canadian citizens who cannot vote be excited about the U.S. election?

“I think the biggest reason is the spectacle of it,” said Chris Hannay, online political reporter for The Globe and Mail. “No Canadian politicians are that exciting.”

Hannay helped to produce “Election 2012: Canadians in America,” a project for The Globe that looks at the presidential election through the eyes of Canadian expats living stateside. He believes that Canadians are drawn to the charisma in American politi-

cians.

Chloe Wolman, a Canadian expat living in Los Angeles,

“In Canadian politics, we vote for the party and not the individual. Here, it’s so clearly the individual.” - Chloe Wolman

agreed.

“In Canadian politics, we vote for the party and not the individual. Here, it’s so clearly the individual,” said Wolman.

Because there is a focus on a personality in the presidential election, it is more easily accessible to the general public, Wolman said.

Doctor Shadia Drury, who is organizing a U.S. election open forum at the University of Regina, pointed out the greater implications that U.S. politics may have on Canadians, and why Canadians should pay attention come election night.

SARA was enacted in 2002.

“The federal legislation was published after our legislation. A lot of the concepts in it are not reflected in Saskatchewan’s legislation because it was prior to it,” said Prieto. She also said the ministry of environment is currently examining how it deals with species at risk.

Some animals, like the grizzly bear, the greater prairie chicken and the black footed ferret, have already disappeared from Saskatchewan, while animals like the greater sage grouse, the burrowing owl and the swift fox, among others, continue to be listed as endangered.

Prieto said the province uses an approach that focuses on conserving whole ecosystems rather than on individual species of animals.

“We are looking more into multi-species action plans more than species-by-species protection,” said Prieto.

Currently there is a multi-species conservation plan going on in southwest Saskatchewan, the area with the highest concentration of at risk animals. A conservation plan called South of the Divide affects 21 different at risk species, Prieto said.

“We’re hearing the vice-presidential nominee in the Republican Party saying that he can’t

distinguish between the private and the public,” she said, citing Paul Ryan’s comments on his Catholic faith during the debate. “He’s questioning the separation of church and state, and we should be very worried about that kind of thing because our liberal traditions are based on the separation of church and state.”

“What happens there invariably ripples to Canada,” Drury said.



U of R student Stephanie Beauchesne watched the American vice-presidential debate on Oct. 11. Photo by Christopher Yip

New position helps aboriginal nursing students

BY TONAYA MARR
@TonayaMarr

Jason Bird, 37, has spent the last eight years of his life at the University of Regina, and he’s using his influence to help aboriginal students finish their degrees.

While working on his Master’s degree in administration, majoring in leadership, Bird has taken on the position of aboriginal support coordinator for the U of R’s fledgling nursing program, which is offered through the U of R and SIAST. Bird and his colleagues use their newly-created positions to keep aboriginal nursing students in school.

“We try to find out why they’re leaving, try to stop them from leaving (and) try to give them as much help as we can, so that they don’t quit school,” said Bird.

There are some 60 aboriginal students among the 350 available seats in the U of R nursing program, split between Regina and Saskatoon campuses. According to dean of nursing David Gregory, the school hopes to see the number of aboriginal students increase.

“What we want is a better representation of Saskatchewan’s society in nursing,” said



Jason Bird, the new aboriginal student coordinator, has been actively improving life for aboriginal students at the University of Regina. Photo by Tonaya Marr

Gregory. “That’s why we’ve taken corrective measures to try to build up the numbers of aboriginal students in our program.”

Celeste Okemaysim, 26, is a second-year nursing student at the U of R. A First Nations student, she sees positives in the role of aboriginal nurses in Saskatchewan’s health care system.

“I’m hoping that we can bring our... First Nations knowledge of medicine and how we’re holistic and how we focus on all aspects of health and not just the physiological aspects,” she said.

Bird keeps in contact with enrolled equity students through social media and email. A group has been created on Facebook for students

to allow easy access to Bird and his expertise on surviving at university as an aboriginal student.

“We’re trying to keep as much touch with those students as we can,” said Bird. “Because they may get lost in the shuffle.”

With a growing First Nations population in the province, Bird’s position may be helping introduce more aboriginal nurses into the province’s work force.

“If you’re aboriginal and you see an aboriginal nurse, that can be inspiring to a patient,” said Gregory. “It can also actually result in better outcomes for a patient who’s aboriginal.”

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This Halloween we’re handing out a special in-depth election issue.



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